BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

2008-05947/

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2008ARR0015-000947
June 19, 2008

Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

PROVINCE FUNDS NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY FESTIVITIES

VICTORIA – The Province is providing $94,200 to Aboriginal organizations to support National Aboriginal Day celebrations throughout British Columbia, Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister Michael de Jong announced today.

"National Aboriginal Day is a time for British Columbians to recognize and celebrate the unique and important contributions Aboriginal people make in this province," said de Jong. "The funds we are providing will help Aboriginal organizations conduct local events and celebrations throughout the province."

Proclaimed a national day of recognition by the Governor General of Canada in 1996, June 21 has become a day to celebrate the significant contributions made by Aboriginal people to the history, culture and economy of British Columbia and Canada.

The Province is providing $75,000 to the BC Association of Friendship Centres (BCAAFC); $15,000 to Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC); and $4,200 to YellowTilt Productions.

BCAAFC will provide approximately $3,000 to each of the 24 friendship centres across the province, with another $3,000 allocated to the central organization in Victoria. MNBC will distribute funds across the province for various Métis Nation events, while YellowTilt Productions will be hosting a National Aboriginal Day event in the downtown area of B.C.'s capital.

Since 2005, the Province has been building a New Relationship with Aboriginal people based on respect, recognition and reconciliation, and is committed to closing the socio-economic gap that separates Aboriginal people from other British Columbians.

-30-

Media contact: Betty Nicholson
A/Communications Director
Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
250 953-3211

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.